

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 220057

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DLJAMESON:PAW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220057

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM JAMESON

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG

SUBJECT: BOUTEFLIKA AND UNGA

1. AS UNGA APPROACHES ANY UPDATE ON BOUTEFLIKA'S PLANS FOR ATTENDING WHICH EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL. IN THIS CONNECTION WE NOTE REPORT ON COLOMBO CONFERENCE IN AUGUST 27 MARCHES TROPICAUX (PAGE 2209) WHICH STATES THAT "IN THE WELL-NOTED ABSENCE OF MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA" ALGERIAN UN PERMREP RAHAL LED THE DEBATE ON THE SAHARA FOR THE GOA. JAY KATZEN, IN DEPARTMENT DEBRIEFING, ALSO REMARKED THAT BOUTEFLIKA PLAYED NO ROLE IN THE ALGERIAN EFFORT ON THE SAHARA AT COLOMBO AND IN FACT EXPRESSED THE FEELING THAT GOA PREOCCUPATION WITH SAHARA QUESTION WAS A MISTAKE WHICH WOULD (AND DID) LEAD TO OVERALL DIMINUTION OF ALGERIAN INFLUENCE AT CONFERENCE.

2. DOES EMBASSY HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ON WHAT ALL THIS MIGHT MEAN CONCERNING BOUTEFLIKA'S ROLE AND ATTITUDE AT THE UPCOMING UNGA AND IN THE FUTURE? ALSO, HOW DO YOU RATE POSSIBILITY THAT RESULTS AT COLOMBO WILL LEAD GOA TO BACK

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OFF SOMEWHAT ON SAHARA ISSUE AT UNGA. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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